

(OBI contribution to
Pres. FI Advisory Board)

23 August 1965

G. 3. National Intelligence Surveys

Authority. CIA responsibility for the coordination of the NIS Program and the production of allocated portions of the NIS are based on paragraph 1 of NSCID No. 3 and USIB-D-51.1/8.

Trends and Developments. In consonance with the USIB-approved reorientation of the Program, the General Survey has been fully established as the primary unit of NIS coverage. General Survey FY 1965 production represented 54% of the total NIS effort for the year and a 67% increase over that for the previous year.

The NIS production forecast for FY 1966 and FY 1967 developed by the NIS Committee was approved by USIB in February 1965. This forecast sustains the increased emphasis on the General Surveys and reflects greater selectivity in the production of detailed supplementary units. Further, the contents of the detailed units considered essential for support of the General Survey are being tailored to meet specific Community requirements. In this connection, NIS treatment of Subversion is being modified to satisfy more directly Department of Defense counterinsurgency requirements.

In order to provide interim updating of statistical information in the General Survey, the NIS Basic Intelligence Factbook was developed during the year as a regular component of the Program, complementing the more analytical coverage in the General Survey. The Factbook provides essential basic data on about 155 countries or areas and is

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produced semi-annually by components of the Defense Intelligence Agency and the Directorate of Intelligence, CIA.

With a view to streamlining and accelerating NIS production, the NIS Committee has taken steps to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of NIS procedures. Participating agencies are cooperating in all phases of the coordination and review process in an effort to compress the time lag between manuscript production and final publication. NIS format and outline guides are being critically examined in terms of appropriate detail, adaptability, economy of production resources, and responsiveness to user requirements.

Gaps and Deficiencies. Crisis situations with their high priority on an analysts' time and effort understandably have adverse effect on NIS production and often frustrate attempts to improve the timeliness of NIS publications. However, analysts are frequently further diverted from NIS to departmental production that in many instances parallels the NIS. To lessen this undesirable, costly duplication and diffusion of intelligence research efforts, attention must be given to increasing awareness of and reliance on the NIS as the established and authoritative vehicle for national basic intelligence.

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Project EPIC, implemented in May 1964, is designed to develop a computer-assisted system for the composition of the NIS text for printing. It is expected that by the end of FY 1966 the project will be completed and full-scale printing of NIS assisted by the computer will start. Studies indicate that a computer-assisted system will cut the printing costs by 15% to 20% and reduce composition time by three to five weeks.

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